

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 17, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-6 and 10-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Stork et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,816) and further in view of Sumner (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,173). The Examiner has objected to claim 16 due to informalities. The Examiner has identified claims 7, 8, and 9 as containing allowable subject matter.

The applicant has amended claims 15 and 16 to clarify the claims and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, and regarding claim 16, to correct informalities. The applicant has amended claim 17 to recite statutory subject matter, which corrects the issue with regard to claims 18 and 19 as well. The applicant amended the claims to include subject matter identified by the Examiner as allowable as follows:

Claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, and 24 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 8. Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 11 and 8.

New claim 27 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 7. New claim 29 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 10, 11, and 7. New claim 31 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 12 and 7. New claim 33 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 13 and 7. New claim 35 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 14 and 7. New claim 37 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 15 and 7. New claim 39 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 16 and 7. New claim 41 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 17 and 7. New claim 43 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 20 and 7. New claim 45 has been added and

includes the subject matter of claims 22 and 7. New claim 47 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 23 and 7. New claim 49 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 24 and 7.

New claim 28 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 9. New claim 30 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 10, 11, and 9. New claim 32 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 12 and 9. New claim 34 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 13 and 9. New claim 36 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 14 and 9. New claim 38 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 15 and 9. New claim 40 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 16 and 9. New claim 42 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 17 and 9. New claim 44 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 20 and 9. New claim 46 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 22 and 9. New claim 48 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 23 and 9. New claim 50 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 24 and 9.

Claims 7, 8, 9, and 11 have been cancelled.

The applicant believes that all claims are now in form for allowance. Reconsideration and early issuance of the notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

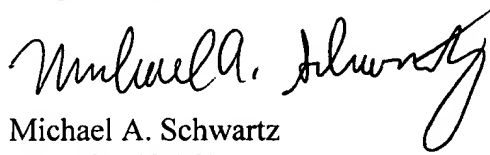
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19903.0028).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. Schwartz
Reg. No. 40,161

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Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500